

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance are requested for claims 1-16 in view of the following remarks.

**Status of the Application**

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. In the Office Action of December 28, 2006, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-19259 to Kojima (the “Kojima publication”) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-189926 to Shigeo (the “Shigeo publication”). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kojima publication in view of the Shigeo publication and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,022 to Yasui *et al.* In the Advisory Action of September 18, 2007, the rejection of claims 1-16 was maintained. Claims 1, 14, and 16 have been amended.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

In the outstanding Advisory Action, the Examiner asserted that claims 1-16 were unpatentable in view of the Kojima publication and the Shigeo publication. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that the Kojima publication and the Shigeo publication, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1, 14, and 16, as amended. As claims 2-13 and 15 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 14, respectively, the Kojima and Shigeo publications also do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of these dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-16 be withdrawn.


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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.52762US).

Respectfully submitted,

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